



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes

August 2020

PASTOR'S PEN

As I set here to write this Pastor's Pen it's July 21st. There is a large prep time to getting an Echo's newsletter written and sent. I am sitting here waiting for the Monsoons to get here. It looks very promising this week, but you never know. One thing for sure is that when God put this world together God built into it some very definite rhythms. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."*

There are definite rhythms to the events of this world even things like pandemics. They come, they build, they drift away, they come back in waves and then they disappear. It's fascinating to read the history and the mathematics of pandemics. What they all show is that this too shall pass. So, what do we do in the meantime? First, practice the fruit of the Holy Spirit "patience". What do we do with this season of isolation and rest that is forced upon us? Well one thing for sure is to rejoice that God thinks rest is important. God built that into the rhythm of our lives and this world, and we can use this rest to prepare for tomorrow. We rest and then we work.

In this time of rest our personal mission is to stay healthy and keep others healthy. And the mission of the Church has not changed, *"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."* Even in this time of livestreamed worship preaching to a virtually empty house filled with your pictures, we are adding new disciples to our fellowship. This month we brought in Linda Zello who lives here in Tucson and Jeanne Parrish who lives in Chillicothe Missouri. We used the medium of Zoom for them to take their vows. By bringing in Jeanne we began a whole new era in church membership. As per John Wesley, 'The world has become our parish.' When you think about it there is generally a third of our members at any given time spread out across this world. Wherever they are they are still believers in Christ and supporting this their local church with their prayers, presence (on livestream worship and Zoom Bible studies), gifts, service, and witnessing. We have people worshiping with us every Sunday all across the United States and on average 3 foreign countries and 3 continents: Europe, Africa and America. We have also had people join us from Asia and Australia.

The focus of our ministry and mission is always here in Catalina, but people from all over, can and are now joining us. This gives us the opportunity to consciously include people from other places in the work of the Kingdom of God here. Our challenge is to keep this in mind and be open to new ways of doing things. It is a bit easier to do in this era of the Coronavirus where most everything is being done in a different manner. When we return to face-to-face worship, ministry, and mission, I trust that we will be wiser and better equipped to meet the next season of our lives together.

In Christ's love

Rev. Fred C. Baum

P.S. When we will start face-to-face worship is yet to be determined. Some want to start this Sunday, others tell me they won't come back until next year and I even had one person say they won't come back until there are zero active cases.... Currently, we are under mandate by the Bishop not to meet besides producing Livestream worship.

From the Building Committee

The Building Committee continues to diligently work for you:

- Water Sheeting Repair
- Storm Damage Repair
- Hill Restoration & Improvement
- Nursery-**Toddler's Room Remodel**

Water Sheeting – The latest proposal we received was technically acceptable but it did not quite meet our cost efficiency objectives. As a result, we reached out to a third party for another bid which we anticipate being technically correct and cost effective. We are scheduled to receive their proposal near the end of July or in early August.

Storm Damage - The uncontested portion of the roof repairs were completed by SCBS. **Skipton, our public adjuster, is aggressively advocating the church's position with Church Mutual, the insurance carrier, on the contested portion of the work, and there's a lot of it. We anticipate that much negotiation will take place over the next few months.**

Hill Restoration – Thanks to the generosity of one of our Church members the hill has been restored to the condition it was in prior to beginning construction last summer. In addition, there were a couple of minor improvements made. The well has been protected with rip-rap and there are a few new parking spaces directly across from the Education and Administration building. However, there is still work to be done including paving those new parking spaces and then coating the hill with chip seal and pea gravel which will be accomplished as your 2019 and 2020 pledges arrive.

Nursery-**Toddler's Room** – Based on the lack of cost efficiencies in the previous proposals we reached out to a third party for a bid that will meet our technical and cost requirements. We anticipate receiving their proposal in early August.

The Building Committee remains humbly thankful to the anonymous donor who so generously helped by providing funds to restore and improve the hill and to each and every one of you who are honoring your 2019 & 2020 pledges.

Vista Mission Outreach Ministry Report

Dear Vista Family:

As we all face these difficult times I pray for our patience and God's Grace to carry us into better times. I have been very concerned about our sister church Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta Mexico. I called Pastor Gela and found that they are going thru a very difficult time. I asked what we could do to help and here are the notes I took from our talk. I pray that God will lay their concerns upon you hearts and help us help them.

- 1) There are 10 members of our sister church, Fuente de Vida, who have the Covid 19 Virus including the pastor of Evangelism, Pastor Kiko and wife Roxana. The virus has hit Pastor Kiko very hard and he is in a hospital in Hermosillo recovering. There is a great need for meds in the Colonia that they can not afford.
- 2) There is a need for resources to pay utility bills, due to not being able to work, and pay the bills. The power is being turned off on a number of the homes in the Colonia. Our Pastors in Mexico must work full time as they can not live on the pay they get from the churches. (Pastor Kiko is a barber but the shops are closed down.) They have no A/C, only fans, and without power, life can be difficult as the streets of the Colonia are not paved and with the heat and the dust, it can be quite miserable.
- 3) Both Pastor Gela's and Pastor Kiko's refrigerators are broken down and need to be replaced.
- 4) There is a need for bedding & towels.
- 5) They have requested help with Lysol, any disinfectants and anti bacteria soap.
- 6) We will be delivering the school supplies the 1st week of August but we still need spiral notebooks for this coming school year, call Jan at 520-301-4821 if you can help.
- 7) Pastor Gela has been given a wonderful gift by a former member who now lives in the Tucson area, an espresso machine and a snow cone machine to add to the coffee roasting business. The little corner shop has been remodeled into a coffee and sweet treats shop to help supplement the family income. She is very excited to receive this wonderful gift but needs someone to pick them up and deliver them to Douglas AZ. They will get them across the border in. If you have a pickup and can do this it would be such a blessing to them. Give me a call for details.
- 8) We need to pray for our brother & sisters in Agua Prieta as times are very rough for them right now. Sadly, we will not be taking the bus trip to Agua Prieta this year for the Celebration of Learning on Oct. 24th. But we will be sending Certificates of Achievement to those students who had a B+ or better school grade average this past school year, along with gift certificate rewards. There will also be gift rewards and certificates for the mothers of these students who have kept them in school and helped them achieve this reward.

Thank you so much for your faithful support of our Mission Program at Vista. God is faithful and we continue to trust Him to supply the needs of our Mission Ministry. Hope to see you in person one of these days.

Yours in mission service:

Dee Berman , Chairman Mission Outreach Ministry.....520-825-7115

deerick1968@gmail.com



VBS at HOME with Vista Families

Vista has entered a 'new' age! Vacation Bible School was done at home for the first time! Our amazing youth and parents were given links to videos, crafts, and games instructions. This new strategy relied on technology, flexibility, and parental involvement to deliver VBS directly to our family's homes! Each day, they opened the link to discover the day's theme. Day 1 – Parable of the Sower. Day 2 – Jesus Walks on Water. Day 3 – Jesus Chooses His Disciples.

Home deliveries of a bag filled with supplies (sponges, tape, crackers, origami paper, balloons, q-tips, straws, goldfish (the food kind), and lots of other interesting items. Daily snacks of popsicles, granola bars, fruit snacks, more goldfish and powdered drinks were also provided for each family. Fun puzzles, coloring sheets and word searches were also included.



We listed our VBS on Facebook and received requests from non-Vista families! We were able to serve ALL and made this an amazing outreach program also. Bags were delivered to families in the Tucson area and to three families in the Phoenix area. From thinking we would not be able to host VBS this year....to a great family and outreach program. We had 29 families and 64 children participating. God is good. All the time.

THANK YOU, VISTA CONGREGATION, FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!



How Can You Serve Vista During This Challenging Time?

CAN PULL TABS - save your can tabs for the youth! They love cooking at Ronald McDonald house and donate all the Vista tabs there.



AMAZON - Join Amazon Smile (one time setup) and a portion of what you spend comes directly to Vista!



FRY'S - Link your Fry's Grocery card to Vista and we get a yearly check from them.



CHURCH DIRECTORY - Pick someone out (doesn't have to be someone you know!) and give them a call or send a card! Making someone's day is pretty easy!

OLD GLASSES - We collect used glasses for the Lion's Club.



OLD JEWELRY - trinkets, hair ribbons, (new, sample) cosmetics, figurines, doilies, tea towels, linens, a knife, fork and spoon, cloth napkin tied with a pretty ribbon, be creative.... - for missions' mother's bags.

KIDS' PRIZES - sports caps, stocking caps, mittens, toys, t-shirts for Agua Prieta children



CASH - Impact of Southern AZ can use your dollars to purchase needed food items for our local community.

PRAY! PRAY! PRAY! God loves hearing from you!

2020 Walk to Bethlehem—Cancelled

It is with tremendous disappointment that we are cancelling this year's Walk to Bethlehem event.



Due to the Corona Virus situation, we are considering the health and well-being of our Walk participants and guests. Obviously, this isn't what any of us wanted, and we feel even with practicing the CDC guidelines, social distancing measures and face masks, Walk activities before, during and after the event would inevitably bring people—particularly high-risk individuals like retirees over 60—in close proximity with each other, creating a high-risk environment for viral spread.

Please join us in praying for a solution soon in order that we can continue to serve God the Vista way!

Blessings, Pam Holder and Robin Conner

Agua Prieta School Supplies Program a Success!

The 2020 eruption of COVID 19 may have been the cause of cancelling programs all over the world, but it can't stop Vista's Agua Prieta School Supplies Program from going forward! The sponsoring part of this program has been completed. More than \$4,000 was raised with 100 Vista members sponsoring 149 students!

School supplies have been purchased and were delivered to Pastor Gela in Douglas, AZ the first week of August. Committee members have already begun buying supplies for NEXT year!

The Celebration of Learning event is being cancelled for this October but don't let that stop you from writing to your student! Address your cards and letters to:

Address to Student by FULL name on 1st line

C/O Maria de Los Angeles Villicana

PO Box 749

Douglas, AZ 85607

Certificates and Mothers' gifts will be sent to Agua Prieta.

Thank you to those of you who contributed to this worthwhile program and please pray for a solution to this virus situation soon!

In Christ, your Agua Prieta School Supplies Committee

Dee Berman Jan Hopke-Almer Benith MacPerson Peggy Smith Robin Conner

Vista UMC Finance Committee

August 2020 Finance Echoes Article

For the month of June income was slightly above budget, and expenses were \$2,569 under budget. Our net Income was \$365. June income was less than 2019.

Methods of Giving

We have implemented Vanco's text giving option and GivePlus mobile application option, which use Vanco credit/debit card giving. See article.

Payroll Protection Program Loan:

Our loan was funded May 7 for \$44,763.25. Ending June, we had \$8,332 remaining and we used the balance by mid-July. We will submit our Loan Forgiveness Application soon to prove we used the entire amount for payroll and benefits. The PPP loan has greatly protected our cash position in the General Fund.

Mortgage Principal:

We have begun making mortgage principal payments and we had a principal gift of \$4,000 in June. The mortgage principal ending July will be reduced to \$538,000.

Your Endowment Fund

As it's been nearly a year since the Vista Endowment Committee moved the management of our funds from the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation (DSUMF) to Schwab, this is a good time to review the fund performance.

The funds actually moved to Schwab in July 2019 but were not fully invested until August. During the last half of 2019, the fund returned 3.8% net of contributions and distributions. As you may have guessed, 2020 has been quite a different story. The Covid-19 virus has had a significant negative impact on the stock market, but because of the conservative nature of our investments, our fund has actually fared quite well. As I write this in mid-May, our fund losses in 2020 have been offset by the gains in 2019. In fact, the fund is up .4%, net of contributions and distributions, for the period of July 2019 to mid-May 2020.

By moving to Schwab, moreover, we have reduced our management fees to zero. In the 12 months prior to July 2019, DSUMF fees had totaled \$1,912.22, and that was based on 51% of the current fund value. Eliminating the monthly management fees charged by DSUMF has helped, and will continue to help, the Endowment fund to grow.

If you would like to make a donation to Endowment or have questions or concerns about how to do so, please see any committee member (Jay O'Donald, John Witt, Dan Radke, or Boyd Carpenter) or refer to the forms and information available on Vista's website (<https://www.vistaumc.org/permanent-endowment-fund/>).

—Jay O'Donald

Vista UMC Giving Options

Online Giving Using 3 Easy Methods Using Your Credit or Debit Card

Vista UMC Website:

On our Vista UMC website click the ***Donate*** link. You can set-up regular payments or do one-time gifts with your credit card through Vanco, which is a very safe site used by more than 25,000 churches nationally and recommended by the UMC. We have used it for many years.

GivePlus App - ***NEW!***

Download the GivePlus app from the app store. The process is the same as the Donate link and links with Vanco.

GivePlusText giving – ***NEW!***

Type in 8337862645 (Vista's secure text number that links to Vanco) and type in your gift amount. Only the amount with no \$ signs. The first time you use it you will be asked to set-up your account. After the first time you just have to type in the 9-digit text number and amount.

Cash Giving Through Your Bank and Investment Accounts

Automatic Clearing House - ACH

Another option is to set up an ACH transfer between your bank and the church's bank. Contact our Assistant Financial Secretary Mary Berg at 240-5666 or maryktucson@yahoo.com.

Bank Bill Pay

You can set up paying a gift directly to Vista through your bank. Contact your banker for further information. (The church uses this method for all reoccurring monthly bills.)

IRA Gift From Your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)

Retirees ages 70 ½ or older can transfer money *tax free* directly from their IRA to a charity such as Vista UMC and it can count towards your RMD (Required Minimum Distribution). It is important to consult your Financial Adviser to set this up properly. *Please contact Dennis Kimmel, Financial Secretary, 520-204-0451.*

August Celebrations



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Robinson, Grant & Joan	8/7
Preston, Phil & Mary	8/8
Crown, John & Jan	8/9
Young, Howard & Mary Lou	8/9
Baum, Pastor Fred & Deede	8/15
Spencer, Phyllis & Dan	8/16
Extract, Clif & Laurie	8/17
Roberson, Walt & Mary Louise	8/19
Larmour, Paul & Margaret	8/22
Mehlhorn, Mary-Ann & Peter	8/23
Bellah, Bill & Mary	8/26
Bukes, Milt & Jan	8/26
Garcia, Al & Jacquie	8/28

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Floyd, Linda	8/4
Tonga, Sela	8/5
Browning, Jean	8/6
Higgins, Peggy	8/6
Podlasek, Ken	8/8
Jackson, Ginny	8/9
Rice, Karen	8/9
Moyer, JennaRae	8/12
Oelrich, Paul	8/12
Harwick, Kailyn	8/13
Hotchkiss, Michelle	8/13
Snider, Glenna	8/13
Alligood, Edna	8/15
Holden, Jackie	8/15
Plum, Kathy	8/16
Heiss, Judy	8/17
Radtke, Gene	8/17
Boring, Dan	8/19
Leedom, Marge	8/20
Isaac, Kathleen	8/21
Kelley, Lynn	8/21
Roberson, Mary Louise	8/22
Sherman, Bob	8/22
White, Natassja	8/23
Young, Howard	8/23
Davies, John	8/25
Hartman, Linda	8/25
Whittington, Linda	8/25
Alberts, Gerry	8/27
Valder, Linda	8/27
Eriksson, Lars	8/29
Marsh, Dan	8/31
Rupe, Jean	8/31



September Celebrations



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Larry & Jackie Holden	9/2
Gene & Paula Radtke	9/2
David & Edna Alligood	9/3
Peggy & Russell Hoeft	9/5
Bernie & Diane Mann	9/6
Bill & Faye Riddle	9/8
Bill & Sandy Gureck	9/10
Belar & Cheryl Watts	9/12
Jim & Joyce Holman	9/16
David & Glenda McFarland	9/16
Paul & Shawn Oelrich	9/17
Robert & Barbara Miller	9/20
Marshall & Teresa Sanders	9/20
David & Nancy Yob	9/22
Bob & Barbara Sherman	9/24
Joe & Sue Staker	9/25
Jerry & Jean Browning	9/28



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Karon Carpenter	9/2
Tom Floyd	9/2
Sinai Penuelas	9/3
Giff Tompkins	9/3
Louise O'Donald	9/6
Jan Hopke-Almer	9/7
David McFarland	9/8
Delores Brindle	9/10
Don Little	9/11
Sue Staker	9/11
Andrea Williams	9/11
Mimi Heywood	9/13
Joan Logan	9/14
Jean Stevenson	9/14
Juan Venhuizen	9/15
Boyd Carpenter	9/19
Bob Collinge	9/19
Faye Riddle	9/19
Grant Robinson	9/19
Lyle Heiss	9/20
Lynn Duenkel	9/21
Noel Rytter	9/22
George Bauder	9/23
Morgan Bills	9/23
Wyatt Bills	9/23
Sandy Gureck	9/23
Jim Obear	9/23
Gordon Odell	9/23
Jean Rinehart	9/23
Laurrie Iceman	9/24
Peggy Hoeft	9/25
Phil Preston	9/25
Joe Staker	9/27
Ken Zebal	9/27

Happy Birthday!

VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC
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MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
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VISIT US ON FACEBOOK
AND AT OUR WEBSITE:
www.Vistaumc.org



August 2020

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